

WEATHER FORECAST:
Fair and Colder Tonight.
Full Report on Page Two.

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PRICE ONE CENT.

COMMISSION WILL OPPOSE GAS COMPANY MERGER BILL

Officials of Washington Gas Light Company Seek Amalgamation With the Georgetown Company.

Promise of 85-Cent Gas Made to Patrons of Georgetown. Public Utilities Commission Said to Oppose Plan.

By JOHN SNURE.
Coincident with the news that Congress will be asked to pass a law which will give the Washington Gas Light Company authority to merge with the Georgetown Gas Light Company, it became known that the District Public Utilities Commission will oppose the enactment of such a measure.

The commission has been asked to sanction a bill granting authority for the merger, but it has declined to express its views.

Nevertheless, on high authority it is said there is no question of the position the commission will take. It would favor a single gas company for the District rather than two. At the same time favoring as it does municipal ownership of the gas utility it is apprehensive that to permit a merger now, under private interests, would set indefinitely the date of municipal ownership.

The question will soon come to an issue before Congress.

Authority to merge the Washington Gas Light Company and the Georgetown Gas Light Company will be introduced in a measure shortly to be introduced in the Senate.

Vice President Howard S. Reade, of the Washington Gas Light Company, and Benjamin S. Minor, counsel for the company, have recently conferred with Chairman John Walter Smith of the District Public Utilities Commission in reference to legislation. Senator Smith has advised that a bill be introduced and he will then have it considered by the District Committee. He will arrange hearings to ascertain the views of the Public Utilities Commission, of the officials of the Georgetown company and other interested parties.

It is urged that the merger, if permitted, would give the people now served by the Georgetown company 85-cent gas, the rate patrons of the Washington company now pay.

The merger plan has been mooted for some time. About two months ago, it came before the Public Utilities Commission, who decided it had no authority to permit the merger. Officers of the Washington Gas Light Company, accordingly turned their attention to bringing about a change in the law to allow the combination.

It is said the Georgetown Company is friendly to the proposed legislation which would give the Public Utilities Commission power to supervise the proposed merger.

Daughter Will Receive Jefferson Davis Relics

The pistols, sword, and other relics which were taken from Jefferson Davis when he was captured and have been returned to his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Davis. Application for these relics was made some time ago by Davis' son-in-law, and the matter was referred to the Attorney General, who decided today that Davis never legally lost possession of the property, and the general amnesty declaration at the close of the war should restore all his possessions to him.

Employees Are Promoted In Office of the Auditor

The following promotions in the office of the Auditor of the District were made by the Commissioners today on recommendation of Auditor Alfonso Sweeney:

K. P. Wright, clerk at \$300 to clerk at \$350; W. C. Rathbone, clerk at \$200 to clerk at \$250; Charles H. Finkbeiner, messenger at \$100 to clerk at \$125; Maurice W. Wrenn was appointed messenger at \$100.

IN CONGRESS TODAY.

SENATE.
Met at noon.
Senator Thomas introduces resolution for Colorado strike investigation. Bill to be introduced for merger of the two local gas companies.

Senator Jackson introduces bill relative to payment of tuition by non-resident pupils.

Senator Sutherland makes minority report on Blair case.

HOUSE.
Met at noon.
Debate on Alaska railroad bill resumed. District subcommittee began hearings on Kenyon red light bill.

A separate District subcommittee investigated lobby charges against Attorney Shields.

Tivers and Harbors Committee continued hearings.

Millionaire To Build 20 Cancer Cure Hospitals

J. M. Flannery, President of the Standard Chemical Company, Tells Congressmen a Philanthropist Will Spend \$15,000,000 to Provide Free Radium Treatment for All Sufferers.

Announcement that an aged millionaire has a plan to erect twenty hospitals at a cost of \$15,000,000 for free radium treatment of cancer was made today by J. M. Flannery, president of the Standard Chemical Company, before the House Mines Committee. Each institution would have five grams of radium.

Government Ownership Would Increase Radium Cost, He Says

The life-saving element in the battle against the "red plague" will mount to a half million dollars a gram if the Federal Government withdraws radium from lands from entry. Mine Commissioner Thomas R. Henahan, of Colorado, told the House Mines Committee today.

Frankly admitting that he is a State rights man, Henahan said all Colorado wants is to be left alone to mine its own radium without Federal interference or control.

Bitter opposition developed today against the Federal withdrawal plan.

SENATORS ALMOST VOTE ON SUFFRAGE

Ashurst Speech Puts Issue Aside When It Comes Up on the Calendar.

The woman suffrage amendment came within an inch of being voted on in the Senate this afternoon. This was after Senator Ashurst had made an unsuccessful effort to get an agreement for a day to vote on it.

Without notice, the matter came up on the calendar. It looked for a little while as if it would be voted on. Senators generally were ready, but Senator Ashurst had a speech prepared which he desired to deliver. He began to address the Senate, and the opportunity for an immediate vote passed.

Prior to this, Senator Ashurst made an effort to secure passage of the woman suffrage amendment. He secured the consent of the woman suffrage resolution February 6, Senator Bryan of Florida objected.

Senator Ashurst offered a motion to proceed to the consideration of the amendment after the Alaska railroad bill was out of the way. This was discussed and finally withdrawn by Senator Ashurst, who said that when the Alaska bill and the Smith-Lever bill were out of the way he would move to take up the woman suffrage measure. Senator Thomas and Senator Jones spoke for prompt consideration of it.

Eight Indictments Are Returned by Grand Jury

Eight indictments, four charging assault with a dangerous weapon, were returned by the grand jury to Criminal Court No. 1 today. Chief Justice Claiborne is dealing severely with persons convicted of assault, as he declares that the crime is increasing at an alarming rate in the District.

Those indicted today were: Assault with a dangerous weapon, William McNeal, John E. Williams, Francis Johnson, and Ernest Colbert; housebreaking, John McDonald, Michael Fitzgerald, and John Major; robbery, James Porter, Joseph Washington, and Clarence Hall; larceny, Arthur Davis and Joseph L. Bateman; assault, Charles Hall.

Would Give Outsiders District Schools' Use

An amendment to the bill specifying the conditions under which non-residents may attend schools in the District, was offered in the Senate by Senator Jackson of Maryland today. The amendment extends the advantages of the public schools to those whose parents are either engaged in business or professional pursuits in the District, and who pay an annual rental for their place of business in excess of the tuition charges. The enactment of the amendment would benefit hundreds of children of Virginia and Maryland, near the District line.

Magistrate Applauds as Mother Beats a Masher

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 21.—"Well done, madam. I am sorry you did not have a club," said Magistrate Yates, as he leaned back in his chair in the police station here today and watched Mrs. Helen Starker administer a thrashing to John Sheridan. Mrs. Starker claimed Sheridan had insulted her three-year-old daughter, and as her fists beat a tattoo on the man's face the magistrate applauded her.

IS NEAR UNTO DEATH



SENATOR SHELBY M. CULLOM.
Former Senator from Illinois, who is not expected to recover from attack of la grippe and heart trouble.

WARDAMAN WILL OPPOSE TERRELL

Serves Notice on President After Conferences on Names for District Bench.

Senator Wardaman of Mississippi today served notice on President Wilson that he would oppose the confirmation of Judge Robert H. Terrell, colored, as judge of the Municipal Court if the President reappoints him.

"The President and I discussed his reported intention of reappointing Terrell," said Senator Wardaman. "I do not know that he has made up his mind to do so, but if he does, I shall unquestionably oppose the confirmation, just as I shall refuse to vote for any colored man for public office."

The Senator from Mississippi laid emphasis on this. He also discussed with the President the Mississippi patronage, and declared that he and Senator Wilkins had reached an agreement with the President on the positions to be filled.

"I consider it as important to select able men for the Municipal Court for the Supreme Court," said Attorney General McInerney today in explaining the delay in making the appointments to fill the four vacancies on the District Municipal bench. He declared that the courts of the minor jurisdiction dealt, in the main, with people who needed all the protection the law could give them, and that he would use the utmost caution in making his selections, even if the delay is necessary.

The Attorney General would make no comment on the opposition of Senator Wardaman to Terrell, declaring that he would not discuss any individual appointment on matters concerning them.

Moyer Will Be Retained Warden of Penitentiary

Warden W. H. Moyer, of the Atlanta penitentiary, will not be ousted from his position as the result of charges made by Julius Hasthorpe and others, alleging prison mismanagement. Attorney General McInerney said the report of Dr. McIlwain, who investigated the prison, reflected the management to be satisfactory. He said that a change in the present parole system had been suggested and he might ask Congress to amend the parole law. The chief objection to the present system is that the warden, the superintendent and the prison doctor, all of whom are brought into close contact with the prisoners, comprise the board and the prisoner want outside members named.

Norris Tries in Vain to Rush Telephone Inquiry

An attempt to hasten the Senate Committee on Postoffice and Postroads in its consideration of his request to have the Postoffice Department give the Senate all the information in its possession regarding Government ownership of telegraph and telephone lines was made this afternoon by Senator Norris.

He introduced a resolution asking that the committee be discharged from further consideration of his resolution. No action, however, was taken by the Senate.

Would Apply \$200,000 To Home for Colored

Senator Kenyon today introduced an amendment to the District appropriation bill, which provides for using the balance of the funds in the hands of the Freedmen's Bureau, amounting to \$200,000, for erection of a home for aged and infirm colored people.

POLICE PRODUCE SHIELDS' FEE CONTRACT SULLIVAN HEARING TO BE A NEW TRIAL

CROSSING MEN SAY THEY PROMISED TO PAY \$10 MONTHLY

Chairman Crosser, of Probe Committee, Figures Attorney Stood to Make \$4,000.

PROTESTS ON SLOW-PAYING

Testimony Reveals Johnson Was in Favor of Bill to Advance Traffic Squad Salaries.

On the heels of the fisty battle between Congressman Ebn Johnson and Attorney John R. Shields, which was staged yesterday, the Crosser subcommittee of the House District Committee today probed the contract which Shields made with the crossing policemen a year ago, and which caused Congressman Johnson to call the lawyer a "jobbyist."

The Shields contract was today introduced in evidence and testimony given was that in consideration of Shields' efforts in behalf of the bill to increase the pay of crossing policemen, which passed last session, the lawyer was to receive \$10 from twenty-four policemen and \$60 from seventeen policemen.

When some of the officers failed to pay in full, the testimony was, Attorney Shields complained to Major Sylvester, on April 2, 1912. The major referred the letter to Inspector Gessford and the inspector testified today that he merely asked the recalcitrant policemen about the Shields bill rendered "for professional services."

Gessford Makes Statement.

"I asked three or four of the men what they had to say about Shields' complaint. I asked their answers on the bottom of the bill and that was all that was done."

Policeman J. F. Patchell, president of the Crossing Policemen's Association, said he knew of the contract, but had not actually prepared it. He said it was circulated among the men, following verbal negotiations with Shields, and that he had signed by twenty-four of the higher-paid men who would benefit most by the passage of the bill.

Inspector Gessford said it was a matter of rumor in police circles that Attorney Shields was representing the crossing policemen in behalf of \$200 I street northwest, who was killed by an automobile truck at Twenty-fifth and M streets yesterday afternoon. The verdict exonerated Edward Smith, colored driver of the truck.

Testimony of witnesses was that the boy was riding a velocipede west in M street behind another automobile truck. It Twenty-fifth street he turned around from the back of the truck and ran under the rear wheels of the coal truck, which was going west in M street.

Death of Child by Motor Is Accidental, Says Jury

A coroner's jury today gave a verdict of accidental death in the case of Joseph J. Minors, Jr., seven years old, who was killed by an automobile truck at Twenty-fifth and M streets yesterday afternoon. The verdict exonerated Edward Smith, colored driver of the truck.

District Will Pension Widow of Fire Captain

The Commissioners today approved the recommendation of the pension board of the Fire Department that Mrs. Julia H. Warren, widow of Capt. T. T. Warren, be given a pension of \$50 a month, and that a child twelve years of age be given a pension of \$5 a month.

Unavoidable Accident Is Lankford Verdict

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.—"Unavoidable accident" was the verdict of the coroner's jury in the death of Richard Dixie Lankford, vice president and secretary of the Southern railway, who was found in the bath room of his apartment in Brooklyn last Friday with the gas turned on full force.

UNCLE SAM MAY FIX YOUR LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUM

The amount of your insurance premium will be determined by the Federal Government if an amendment to the Constitution proposed by Senator Weeks of Massachusetts is adopted. The amendment, which Weeks introduced at the request of Boston lawyers, would give the Federal Government entire control of "interstate insurance."

ADJOURNMENT IS LIKELY BY JUNE 1

President Wants Congressmen to Have Time to Prepare for Fall Campaign.

Steps were taken by President Wilson this morning to bring about an adjournment of Congress about June 1. He conferred at length with Chairman Oscar Underwood of the House Ways and Means Committee, and with Senator Ollie James of Kentucky on this subject. Both declared to the newspaper men, after seeing the President, that they could see no obstacle in the way of adjournment by that time.

Trust legislation will be advanced with all reasonable speed in the House, while the Senate is disposing of the rural credits legislation. Both members declared that Congress would act on the questions promptly, at the same time disposing as rapidly as possible of the various appropriation measures.

The President is in sympathy with the desirability of allowing members of Congress to prepare for the fall campaign. To carry out his program of legislation as pledged by the Democratic platform, he realizes that it is essential to have the next Congress Democratic.

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Captain Warren was appointed a member of the Fire Department July 8, 1896, was promoted to lieutenant July 1, 1909, and was made captain July 16, 1905. He died January 1, 1914.

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Capital's Civic Bodies Indorse Greek Pageant

Official indorsement of the Greek pageant, "The Fire Rekindled," an outdoor festival planned for Washington during the coming spring, was given by the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade, and the Retail Merchants' Association this afternoon. The pageant probably will be given in June.

HUNDREDS INSIST ON A HEARING FOR VETERAN FIGHTER

Deputy Chief Engineer of Fire Department May Introduce Testimony.

ATTORNEY DARR HAS CASE Commissioners Announce That Session Will Not Be a Continuation of the First.

Andrew J. Sullivan, deputy chief of the Fire Department, who is threatened with involuntary retirement following an investigation by the District Commissioners of the fire which wrecked the American Five and Ten Cent Store December 24, is to be given an opportunity by the Commissioners to introduce whatever testimony in his behalf he may see fit at tomorrow's public hearing.

On the eve of the hearing, granted the veteran fire fighter at the urgent request of hundreds of Washington business and professional men as well as members of the Fire Department itself, the Commissioners today announced that tomorrow's hearing will not be a continuation of the original session, held behind closed doors.

It will be independent of the first one, they explained, and is granted with a view of giving Sullivan an opportunity to place his side of the case squarely before the Commissioners.

A transcript of the testimony taken by the Commissioners in executive session which preceded the resignation of Commissioner Siddons that Deputy Chief Sullivan ask for retirement which he, the Commissioner, said would be granted. Today was sent by the city fathers to Charles W. Darr, a Washington attorney, who, as the next best friend of the fire fighter, is assisting him in preparing his case.

The Commissioners explained that the testimony was given Mr. Darr so that Chief Sullivan may be given an opportunity to refute any of it, if he feels so disposed.

Mr. Darr, through whom Mr. Sullivan's request for a hearing was submitted, said today that his course of procedure will be determined after reading the testimony in the investigation. Until he has read this, he said, he can not decide whether he will ask for the summoning of witnesses.

My understanding has been," said Mr. Darr today, "that the hearing is in no sense a trial of the deputy chief. No charges have been preferred against Mr. Sullivan, and the request for his retirement was conveyed to him by word of mouth."

In Nature of Trial.

"If, however, witnesses are to be summoned, and subjected to cross-examination, the proceedings will take on the nature of a trial. My impression of the hearing was that it was to afford the friends of Deputy Chief Sullivan an opportunity to say a word in his behalf, and to bespeak for him consideration of which it was proposed that he sever his active connection with the Fire Department."

I have prepared a long list of citizens who have offered to appear tomorrow to speak for the deputy chief, and to bespeak for him consideration of his record before final action is taken."

If it is decided to summon witnesses, the proceedings will consist of several days. Among those who will probably be present are Fire Chief Frank J. Wagner, Fire Marshal E. P. Nicholson and the five injured firemen. Corporation Counsel Syne will attend, and it was said will take part in the proceedings.

If, after hearing the Commissioners believe that their request for retirement of Deputy Fire Chief Sullivan was justified, they may take steps to force his retirement without action by a trial board. Members of the Police Department, in similar circumstances, are granted the privilege of a trial before a board appointed by the Superior court of Police, but no such privilege is accorded members of the Fire Department.

Gompers Urges Probe Of Strike Conditions

Circular letters were received today by all House members from President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, urging a Congressional investigation of the Colorado coal and Michigan copper strikes.

"It is known that great fundamental rights are being ruthlessly trampled under foot," Gompers said. "The great cause of justice, liberty, and humanity will be served by a thorough investigation."

Prominent House Democrats predicted today that some sort of an investigation would be authorized at the Democratic strike caucus tomorrow night.

Only 46 Hours to Havana.

Atlantic Coast Line. "New York & Florida Special" leaves 8:20 p.m. daily. All "east coast" points reached. Electric-lighted Pullmans. 1406 N. Y. ave. a. w. Adv.

TWO THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T MISS TODAY
Ty Cobb's Article on the Sporting Page | Tony Biddle's Article on the Editorial Page
GET THE HABIT: READ THEM DAILY